

# Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee  
July 28, 2010  
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

# Report Focus

- 6th Monthly Report to PS&NS
- Brownout Plan
  - Workload and Response Time Statistics Update
  - Projected and actual savings realized
- Lifeguard Budget Reductions
  - Beach Coverage Statistics Update
  - Personnel Impacts and Adjustments

# Brownout Plan Refresher

- Brownouts refers to the temporary removal from service of 0-8 fire engines per day in the 13 fire stations that house more than one emergency response apparatus
- Brownouts were implemented on February 6, 2010 as a budget reduction measure to save \$11.5M in overtime
- Each brown-out unit saves approximately \$1.4M annually
- Today's report covers February 6 though July 15, 2010
  - 50,137 emergency incidents during this period
    - 1,448 fires
    - 43,370 medical
    - 5,319 other

# Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines
  - 32% - 100%
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
  - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 55%
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **55.42%**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **54.09%**
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **29% - 87%**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **26% - 81%**
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = 5:02
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = 5:07
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **3:49 – 6:16**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **3:51 – 6:31**

# Effective Fire Force

- Defined as the number of firefighters required to perform operations at a typical single family dwelling fire
  - 14-15 firefighters depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
  - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
  - National Standard = 90%    Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 72%
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **70%**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **73%**
  - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **25% - 100%**
  - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **0% - 100%**
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
  - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **8.42 minutes**
  - City-Wide During Brownouts = **7.79 minutes**

# Projected –v- Actual Savings

Projected savings for the last half of FY 2011 = \$4.2 Million

FY10 savings attributable to brown outs = \$4,174,806

New tracking system in place for FY 2011, where we will be able to track savings as they occur



# Brownout Plan Summary

- Initial Plan implemented remains fundamentally sound and is functioning as designed
- No significant improvements in response times can be made absent restoration of funding for browned out units
- Impacts to non-emergency activities (e.g., training, fire inspections) are being addressed where possible
- Plan will continue to be monitored daily and beneficial adjustments will be made where possible
- Plan performance and significant adjustments will be reported to PS&NS monthly

# Lifeguard Beach Coverage Update

- Staffing Reductions Made to Achieve Budget Savings
  - 2 fulltime LGs in Fall, Winter and Spring
  - 1 fulltime LG in Summer
  - 3 hourly LGs on weekdays in Summer
  - 4 hourly LGs on weekends in Summer
  - Hourly LG positions during Spring Break and Spring/Fall weekends
  
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
  - 2 hourly LGs patrol Torrey Pines Beach in summer
  - Standard Operating Procedure for Torrey Pines Beach responses
  
- LG Resources are Shifted in Response to Emergency Incidents and Peak Service Demands

# Incidents at Torrey Pines Beach (6/16 thru 7/15)

- City Portion of Beach (360 incidents)
  - 10- Medical Aid
  - 0- Water Rescues
  - 2- Cliff Rescues
  - 345- Preventive Actions
  - 0-Enforecement
  - 3 - Other calls for service
  
- Non-City Portions of Beach (329 incidents)
  - 18- Medical Aid
  - 3- Water Rescues
  - 0- Cliff Rescues
  - 305- Preventive Actions
  - 1-Enforecement
  - 2 - Other calls for service

# Wind n' Sea Beach Coverage/Incidents

- Budget Reduction Staffing at Wind 'n Sea Beach
  - Seasonal staffing in place/No year-round staffing provided
- Staffing Reductions Made to Achieve Budget Savings
  - 1 fulltime LG in Summer
- Incident Count (703 incidents)
  - 10- Medical Aid
  - 0- Water Rescues
  - 345- Preventive Actions
  - 0-Enforcement
  - 3 - Other calls for service

# Lifeguard Training Activities

## ■ Budget Reductions

- Wednesday training activities terminated
- Personnel assigned to work relief positions to save OT (\$236k)
- River Rescue Team training cut by 50%
- LGII training coordinator position eliminated (\$69k)

## ■ Adjustments Made to Training

- Training now conducted via in-service and start of shift in short modules
- Training is sufficient to maintain basic skills

# Lifeguard Personnel Impacts

## ■ Reductions

- 8 Lifeguard II FTEs
- 4 filled
- 4 unfilled



## ■ Impacts

- 4 Lifeguards II demoted to Lifeguards I (\$256k savings)
- Demoted lifeguards granted priority for OCA to LGII
- Used as needed to fill LGII positions (sick leaves, vacations)
- Granted priority to return to fulltime FTE as vacancies occur
- One has returned to full time LG II as a result of a retirement

Questions?